

TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

December 8, 2010

Trumbull Library

Members Present: Chairman James Cebulski, Joanie Hammill, Arthur A. Kukla, John J. Lauria, Tara Liskov, Anthony Petitti, Joseph Schlig, Jeannine Stauder, Mary Whatley

Also Present: Susan J. Horton, Library Director, Joanne Orenstein, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman Cebulski.

The two newly appointed members of the Board were introduced, and introduced themselves. Joanie Hammill serves on the One Book/One Town Committee and has been part of Ms. Horton's non-fiction monthly book club. A 38-year resident of Trumbull, she feels the Library is the heart of any town. Jeannine Stauder was on the Library Board previously and is happy to be back. She served on the Board during the expansion of the Children's wing, and was on the Building Committee. The Board introduced themselves. Mr. Cebulski noted it was his last meeting as Chairman, per Board By-Laws.

Correspondence: The Board received a Christmas card from Attorney Kidambi who was instrumental in closing the Library Foundation.

Minutes: Mr. Schlig said the Board could not agree at the last meeting about postponing the election of new officers: it is stated in the By-Laws that the election must occur at the December meeting. Mr. Kukla made a motion to accept the minutes with that sentence stricken from the November minutes. Mr. Lauria seconded. **VOTE: 7 approve, 2 abstain, motion passed.**

Chairman's Report: Mr. Cebulski said the First Selectman appointed two new Board members from the Republican Party. There are nine members of the Board: two from the Fairchild-Nichols Branch and other Board members would be four from the party of the First Selectman (Republican now), and three of the other (Democrat). The Chair of the opposing party makes a recommendation to the First Selectman, which he can follow, or not. The maximum from one party may be five.

Mr. Schlig made a motion to thank Carol Porrata-Elstein and Diane Schwartz for their efforts, and have the Chairman (Mr. Cebulski) write to them to convey that thanks. Ms. Whatley seconded.

VOTE: 7 in favor, 2 abstain, motion passed.

Mr. Cebulski noted the 3rd plan for the parking lot which is a combination of the Town's plan and the plan Don Watson presented in November, was adopted by the Town. Don Watson is acting as an advocate to make sure that plan is used. Dale Parsons will make a sketch which can be posted for Library Patrons and Town residents to view. The Town is committed to an April start.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Report & Election

This item was moved up in the agenda as Mr. Petitti, a member of the Nominating Committee, was not feeling well. Mr. Lauria presented the proposed Slate of Officers:

- Chairman – Tara Liskov
- Vice Chairman – James Cebulski
- Treasurer – Anthony Petitti

Ms. Whatley made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Mr. Petitti seconded. **VOTE: All in favor, motion passed.**

Director's Report: Ms. Horton reported that the new server was installed and is running smoothly. The solar panels are in place and the electrical work is currently being done. All that is left to do is set up the internet connection for the kiosk in the building to show energy generation, usage and savings. United Illuminating donated the solar panels; the Library was chosen by town officials as the site for the panels.

The new clerk, Marielaina Tymula, has been training all week at the Main Library and will start at the Branch on Monday, December 13th. The request to upgrade Ms. Miller's position to Teen Librarian is still pending, but a meeting is scheduled for December 20th with Robert Dunn of the M.A.T.E. Union and Chief of Staff, Dan Nelson. Mr. Kukla made a motion to support the Director's effort to upgrade Ms. Miller's status to Teen Librarian. Mr. Schlig seconded. **VOTE: All in favor.**

Ms. Horton reported the Association voted at their November meeting to give a grant to the Trumbull Library System to add a new service. Within the next couple months the Library will be able to offer downloadable audio books through Library Connection. There are enough funds in the grant to purchase a few 'reader' devices (Sony Reader, iPad, Nook) which will be available at the Branch for people to learn more about how they work. A question was raised about the Amazon Kindle which currently has the bulk of the market. The Kindle is proprietary, but the iPad, Sony Readers and Nook are not thus allowing the vendor, Overdrive, to support a wide variety of readers. Overdrive has a database of over 200,000 downloadable titles.

Budget: Ms. Horton stated she and Mr. Sheehy have presented a Budget with "everything in it" for the Board's feedback. Items included are for discussion purposes. To date, we have not received budget directives from the Finance Director or First Selectman. The Friends' were meeting at the same time as Library Board and would decide how much to give the Library for next year. Last year they gave \$27,000 (\$20,000 books, \$4000 children's programs, \$3000 One Book/One Town). The Board then spent time going through the Budget proposals line by line. Staff salary amounts were provided by the Finance Director and reflect contractual obligations. Ms. Horton said she did not believe a new position of Teen Librarian would pass, but that the cost of an upgrade can. The difference in salary between a clerk and Teen Librarian would range between \$4,000 and \$12,000 depending on negotiations with Union and Town regarding Steps. As Ms. Miller is a full time employee of the Town she currently receives a benefit package. Ms. Horton is also requesting a raise in Sunday hours from \$15/hr to \$18/hr because several of the staff already make very close to \$15/hour, and therefore, is no incentive to work on Sundays. Mr. Kukla stated his opposition to a new PT clerk position at the Branch. Ms. Horton explained that the Association wanted it, but she

also added it for philosophical discussion purposes. Based on the precedent set when the Town replaced the full time Youth Director with two part-time individuals, Ms. Horton would like to open future discussions with the Town and Union about the possibility of hiring some part-time professionals as a cost effective option to staffing needs. Mr. Kukla said he would prefer if a new position be added, it be at the Main Library, and the Director could decide who goes to the Branch.

Professional development line items for seminars and travel expenses were eliminated two years ago and the Board has been paying these expenses from their funds. The Board would like these line items put back in the Budget at the level it was two years ago.

The #802 line item is mechanical repair. The Library has had extensive problems with air conditioning, and now with the heating. As there continues to be ongoing problems, an increase is necessary.

The #888 line item is Capital Outlay. The Library received a grant last year to replace all the public computers. Staff computers are nearly 10 years old and in much need of replacement along with many of the public and staff printers. The Board supported the idea of making provision for replacements over a three-year time period.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch: Ms. Whatley repeated the information about the grant. The entrance sign was vandalized and will be replaced.

Old Business:

Request from Long Hill Baptist Church: The Board expressed their feelings about the request that the Library host an exhibition in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the printing of the King James Bible provided by the Long Hill Baptist Church. There was much discussion. Ms. Liskov made a motion to not have the exhibit. Mr. Schlig seconded the motion. **VOTE: 5 in favor of the motion, 3 against, motion passed.**

Ms. Liskov thanked Mr. Cebulski for his service as Chairman for the past three years. Mr. Cebulski wished Ms. Liskov good luck. Ms. Horton also thanked Mr. Cebulski. Ms. Whatley said she was proud of the accomplishments the Board made under Mr. Cebulski's service.

Adjournment: Mr. Lauria made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Kukla seconded.

VOTE: All in favor at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
Clerk

Approved:

James J. Cebulski, Chairman
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, January 12, 2011
at 7pm.